

Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project
Agency of Human Services, Department of Health, Division of Mental Health
Weeks Building, 103 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671-1601

MEMORANDUM

TO: Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project
Advisory Group and Interested Parties

FROM: John Pandiani
Monica Boyd

DATE: April 8, 2005

RE: Employment and Co-Occurring Substance Abuse Disorders

As part of the ongoing evaluation of its Co-Occurring Disorder Treatment Program (CODTP) project, the Howard Center for Human Services asked the Performance Indicator Project (PIP) for information on the rate of employment for individuals enrolled in the CODTP program. CODTP is designed to assist persons with co-occurring psychiatric and substance use disorders who are involved in the criminal justice system to live and function independently in the community through integrated treatment and services. As a first step in this analysis of community functioning, the PIP calculated the rate of employment and average annual income for CODTP participants during FY2000-2004. Employment rates are based on any employment during the study period. Income is reported as an average annual income for all individuals employed during the study period. These two measures are reported for the 82 CODTP and for the 809 other CRT clients who were assigned to the CRT program for adults with severe and persistent mental illness during the same time period.

This report adds to a series of PIPs that combine data obtained from DMH Designated Agencies with data obtained from the Vermont Department of Employment and Training (DET) to measure rates of employment for adults with severe and persistent mental illness who are served by Vermont's Community Rehabilitation and Treatment (CRT) programs. Previous reports in this series are available online at (www.ddmhs.state.vt.us/docs/pips/pips-by-cross-sector-indicators.html#emp).

As you will see from the attached table and graphs, CODTP clients, overall, were somewhat more likely than other CRT clients to be employed, but the average income of employed CODTP clients was substantially lower than the income of other employed CRT clients.

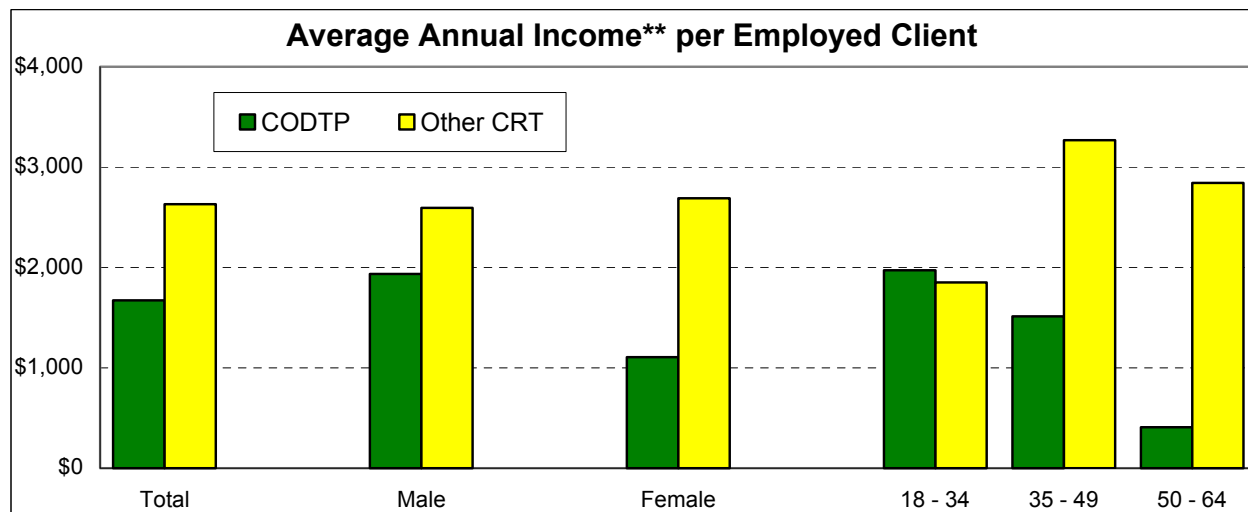
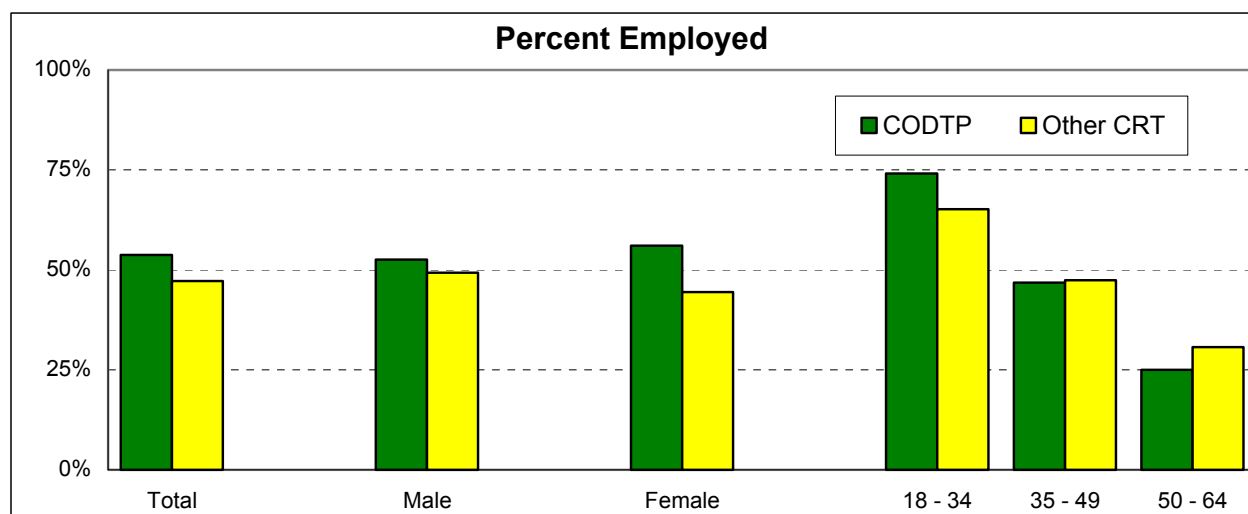
The employment rate for CODTP clients (53%) was higher than the employment rate for other CRT clients (46%), overall, for both men and women (52% vs. 48% and 56% vs. 43%, respectively), and in the 18-34 age group (74% vs. 65%). There was no difference in employment rate of CODTP and other CRT clients, however, in the 35-49 age group (47% each), and CODTP clients in the 50-64 age group were less likely than other CRT clients to be employed (25% vs. 31%).

In terms of average annual wage for employed clients, CODTP clients had substantially lower average annual incomes than other CRT clients overall (\$1,671 vs. \$2,632), and for both men and women (\$1,935 vs. \$2,594 and \$1,106 vs. \$2,690 respectively). Average annual wages were similar in the 18 to 34 age group (\$1,971 vs. \$1,850), but CODTP wages were substantially lower in both the 25-49 and 50-64 age groups, (\$1,514 vs. \$3,268 and \$470 vs. \$2,843 respectively).

The results of this preliminary analysis raise a number of interesting questions about potential differences between CODTP clients and other CRT clients in terms of both employment and mental health services. In terms of employment, these include questions about type of employment, and change in employment over time, for instance. In terms of services received, these include questions about the type, amount and duration of services received by both groups. All of these questions can be addressed with the databases used in this analysis. We look forward to your comments and your suggestions for further analyses of these data to pip@vdh.state.vt.us or 802-241-2638.

Employment Rates and Income Reported: FY 2000 - 2004

HCHS Co-occurring Disorders Treatment Program and Other CRT Clients



	Total	Male	Female	18 - 34	35 - 49	50 - 64
CODTP						
# Served*	82	57	25	27	47	8
% Employed	54%	53%	56%	74%	47%	25%
Total Wages Reported	\$367,724	\$290,277	\$77,447	\$197,114	\$166,542	\$4,068
Average Annual Income** per Employed Client	\$1,671	\$1,935	\$1,106	\$1,971	\$1,514	\$407
Other CRT						
# Served	809	467	342	227	331	251
% Employed	47%	49%	44%	65%	47%	31%
Total Wages Reported	\$5,027,847	\$2,983,075	\$2,044,772	\$1,369,176	\$2,564,293	\$1,094,378
Average Annual Income** per Employed Client	\$2,632	\$2,594	\$2,690	\$1,850	\$3,267	\$2,843

Analysis is based on data provided by Howard Center for Human Services and the Department of Employment and Training. Employment rates and wages reported are based on all employment during FY 2000 - 2004. Age is calculated as of FY 2004. For individuals in the Co-Occurring Disorders Treatment Program, the number served is the number for whom employment data are available. Five clients were excluded in this analysis because employment data are not available. **Wages per employed client were averaged over the five year study period.